

# Innovative Smartphone Applications: Assisting the Blind

Kyree Montgomery and Taymar Harris

UMB CURE Scholars Program - Sixth Grade Cohort 3, Green Street Academy, Baltimore, MD,  
Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Maryland, Baltimore

## Purpose of Study

The purpose of this study is to understand how an application can help blind people function.

## Introduction

Microsoft has developed a smartphone application called Seeing AI. It uses computer vision to describe the world for the visually impaired.

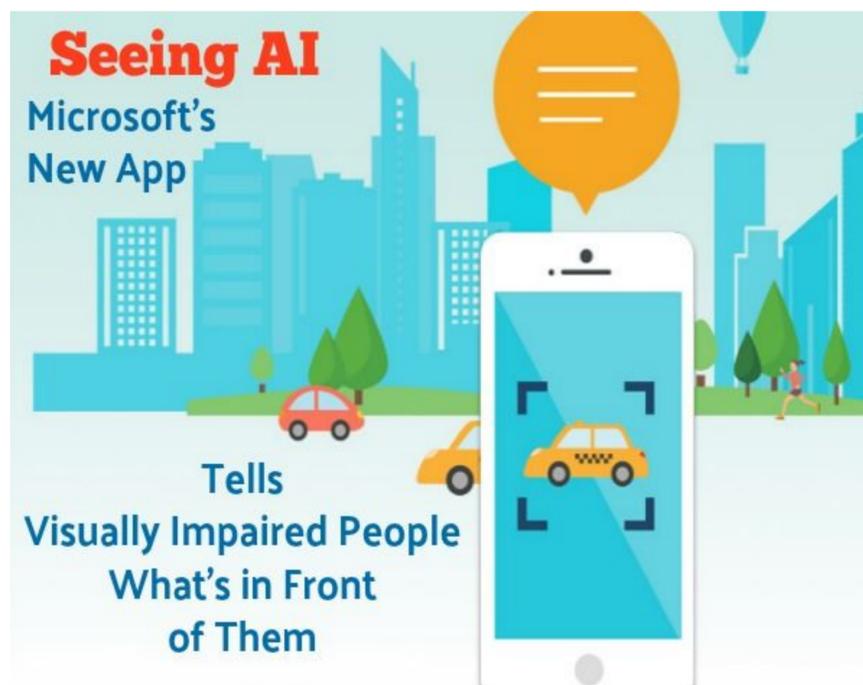


Figure 1. Microsoft Seeing AI

## Discoveries and Innovations

The smartphone application recognizes people it has seen before and is capable of guessing strangers' age and emotions. It can identify household products by scanning barcodes. It is also capable of reading and scanning documents and recognizing currency. It was created by Microsoft and it is available for iPhones, iPads, and Androids. It costs nothing.

## Public Perception

Based on reviews from the visually impaired, the use of "Seeing AI" has helped them continue their everyday life in the world. The app does not take up much space on the phone which allows room for other apps. Most importantly, the app is very well received because it is very user friendly and best of all it is free.

## Applications in Medicine

This application helps improve the individual's quality of life by taking away many daily stressors like:

- Counting money
- Tripping over objects they can't see
- Reading food labels to eat healthier
- Reading items that are not in braille
- Knowing who is in their space

## Data



Figure 2. Seeing AI Glasses

## Conclusion

In conclusion, Seeing AI is a very resourceful free app for the visually impaired, that describes the world around them acting as a guide through the everyday activities in life. One of the great things about this app is that it is available to everyone with a smartphone.

## References

- <https://learningenglish.voanews.com>
- <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/seeing-ai/>
- [www.adventuresinlowvision.wordpress.com](http://www.adventuresinlowvision.wordpress.com)